



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of May 30, 2005

AUSTRALIA

Dengue Cases Confirmed in Currajong and Kirwan, Australia

Health inspectors have discovered large numbers of dengue mosquitoes in the Currajong area. Staff from the Townsville and Thuringowa city councils are working with mosquito control experts from the Tropical Public Health Unit to conduct house-to-house inspections and mosquito eradication. Experts hope they can contain the dengue outbreak which has so far affected 4 people, with several more cases suspected. Three cases have been confirmed in Currajong and one in Kirwan. There are also two suspected cases in Kirwan and Railway Estate. Residents are being asked to take immediate steps to prevent the outbreak from escalating. Symptoms of dengue fever include headache, rash, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea, and fatigue. The serious form of the disease, dengue hemorrhagic fever, can be fatal, especially in young children.

Source:

· Townsville Bulletin, Australia, May 24, 2005,
http://townsvillebulletin.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,7034,15386957%255E14787,00.html
· Promed Mail, May 29, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1225368734893027337::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010.29118

CHINA

135 Middle School Students Affected by Food Poisoning in Baotou, China

A total of 135 middle school students in the city of Baotou, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, contracted food poisoning on 30 May 2005. The students suffered from nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Most students left the hospital on 30 May 2005 after taking medicine and receiving transfusions. The students are thought to have drunk local water before feeling sick. An investigation is underway to determine the

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possible causes, which may include viral, bacterial, and toxic etiologies.]

Source:

· People's Daily Online, Jun 02, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200506/02/eng20050602_188050.html
· Promed Mail, Jun 02, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2972863051519384768::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29167

INDIA

Meningococcal Disease Kills 37 So Far in India

As of 26 May, 2005, the cumulative number of cases of Meningococcal disease in Delhi, India is 368 with 37 deaths. The age distribution of cases show about 6% under age five, 32% between the ages of 5-14 years, 44% between 15-29 years, 10% between the ages of 30-44 and 6% aged 45 and older. The highest numbers of deaths (62%) was in the 15-29 age groups. About 74% of cases are males and 26% females. Contact tracing of suspect cases is being done and 305 households have been administered chemoprophylaxis. Approximately 12,000 vaccinations of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine have been administered to high risk groups (including health care workers). Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) samples have been received for testing at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi, and 35 samples have tested positive so far for serogroup A.

Source:

· Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, WHO, May 30, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_05_30a/en/index.html

Over 100 Guests Become Ill After Wedding Lunch – Food Poisoning Suspected

More than 100 guests, including women and children, became ill after consuming lunch following a marriage ceremony on 29 May 2005, in Basallihundi village in Mysore Taluk. They have been hospitalized. The number of guests in the wedding who took ill rose by the evening. As their number did not abate, a six-member team of doctors from the KR Hospital rushed to the village immediately. Although first aid was rendered, the situation did not improve, as the number of sick people continued to rise. Since more than 600 guests ate lunch after the wedding, the number of affected is likely to rise. Neither the bride nor the groom was affected. The explosive nature of a primarily vomiting-associated illness after a large gathering beginning within hours is suggestive of staphylococcal food poisoning, a self-limited illness caused by a pre-formed enterotoxin.

Source:

· Star of Mysore, May 31, 2005, <http://www.starofmysore.com/main.asp?type=news&item=6308>
· Promed Mail, May 31, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1225368734893027337::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29135

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INDONESIA

Indonesia to Immunize 6.4 Million Children After 16 Cases of Polio

Indonesia has launched a massive polio vaccination drive to stop an outbreak of the disease that has crippled 16 children. Officials want to immunize 6.4 million children across the provinces of West Java and Banten, as well as Jakarta, during the compulsory campaign for children under 5. Indonesia was polio free for a decade until this month, when cases emerged near the West Java city of Sukabumi. All 16 cases have come from the area, 62 miles (100 kilometers) south of Jakarta. The virus spread from Nigeria, across Africa, crossed the Red Sea into Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and reached Indonesia -- infecting 16 previously polio-free countries in all. The viral disease of the brain and spinal cord, which mainly affects children under 5, can cause irreversible paralysis in a matter of hours. Some cases are fatal.

Source:

- CNN news, May 31, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/05/31/indonesia.polio.reut/index.html>
- The Star Online, Jun 01, 2005, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/6/1/asia/11098543&sec=asia>
- The Jakarta Post, May 31, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20050601.A07>

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Spreading Rapidly in Indonesia

Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) is spreading fast in Indonesia, with 7339 cases and 40 deaths reported in Jakarta between January 2005 and 22 May 2005. Health authorities believed the number of DHF cases would reach its peak in May and June, when climatic changes take place with intermittent rain. During this time many water catchment areas would become *Aedes* mosquito breeding grounds. In Bandung, West Java, 895 cases and 7 deaths have been detected so far. In Bogor 350 cases with 9 deaths have been reported, while in Padang, Sumatera, 249 people have become ill with 3 deaths since January 2005.

Source:

- Bernama.com - Malaysian National News Agency, May 24, 2005, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=135951>
- Promed Mail, May 29, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1225368734893027337::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29118Sri L

PHILIPPINES

Three Members of Media Die of Malaria After Filming in Palawan, Philippines

Residents of Palawan are being advised to stay away from remote areas of the island to avoid malaria. Health officials are saying that malaria is prevalent in Palawan and the public needs to be careful especially if going to the mountains. The malaria-causing mosquitoes dwell only in far-flung and mountainous areas and are not a problem in general tourist areas. There is much national concern about malaria after the deaths of media personalities Reyster Langit, Jesus Christian Macadaeg and Arnold Tañare from malaria. Langit passed away 3 June while Tañare died 31 May. Macadaeg died last

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week. The deaths of the three stemmed from illnesses connected to cerebral malaria which they may have contracted while doing a special coverage among the Tao't Bato in Ransang in Rizal town in Palawan (a remote mountainous village in southwest Palawan).

Source:

- ABS-CBN, Jun 03, 2005, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=6851>
- ABS-CBN, Jun 03, 2005, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=6990>

Dengue Cases Reaching Outbreak Proportions in Zamboanga City, Philippines

The number of cases continue to increase in Zamboanga City, Philippines and health officials are alarmed that the number is already reaching "outbreak" proportions. There have been 289 dengue cases since January up to May 1 from 40 cases over the same period last year (an increase of 298%). The places that have high number of dengue cases this year are the health districts of Santa Maria, Baliwasan and Sangali. Dengue fever is an acute viral infection caused by a bite from *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. The primary form of dengue fever is characterized by a skin rash and a high fever with severe pain in the head and muscles. Other symptoms may include chilling, diarrhea and vomiting. In June last year, 2,332 dengue cases were admitted to sentinel hospitals nationwide from January 1 to May 15, 2004, with 16 deaths.

Source:

- ABS-CBN International, May 31, 2005, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=6672>
- The Manila Times, Jun 01, 2005, <http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2005/jun/01/yehey/prov/20050601pro7.html>

THAILAND

Dengue Cases Double Since Last Year in Phuket, Thailand

Thailand's southern island resort of Phuket has noted a 2-fold rise in the number of dengue cases since last year [2004]. There are currently 68 confirmed cases of dengue fever on the island, with another 340 suspected cases awaiting diagnosis. Phuket has the 9th highest number of dengue cases in the country and more than double the number it had last year [2004]. However, no one has yet died of the condition in Phuket. The situation has become a matter of national concern this year [2005]. There have been more than 8000 reported dengue fever cases in Thailand since the beginning of 2005 and 16 people have died.

Source:

- MCOT TNA English News, May 24, 2005, <http://etna.mcot.net/query.php?nid=38780>
- Xinhuanet, May 21, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-05/21/content_2985001.htm
- Bangkok Post, May 21, 2005, http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/21May2005_news06.php
- Promed Mail, May 29, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1225368734893027337::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29118

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Other World News

WORLD

UN Officials Say AIDS Moving Faster than Global Efforts to Stop It

A one-day gathering of representatives from more than 120 nations met to gauge progress in meeting commitments made at the first global gathering at the United Nations on HIV/AIDS. A UN report was released during the meeting describing certain key findings. It mentioned that many affected countries are at risk of falling short of the target of reducing by 2005 the level of infection in young men and women 15 to 24. There is a growing crisis of HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, but national efforts and donor support are not sufficient. There is also an acute shortage of trained personnel with the requisite skills and expertise. A major concern voiced at the gathering states that unless the epidemic is controlled, it will continue to expand and worsen for decades, killing large numbers of people and severely damaging societies.

Source:

- CNN news, Jun 02, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/06/02/annan.aids/index.html>
- Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Jun 02, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N02657017.htm>

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